

Dear Redistricting Committee & Committee Members,

I have lived much of my life in an urban environment. Before moving to Oregon, I worked for many years in the inner city of San Francisco. I know urban realities and priorities. My final decade in California and my first years in Oregon straddled the urban/rural divide. Now I live on a (burned) forest property in Vida and consider myself a rural Oregonian. This life experience gives me a window into both urban and rural realities--realities that are distinct and very different in terms of priorities and perspectives. Oregon is not served by any attempts to "smooth over" these distinctions and, indeed, risks diluting the voice of either in the redistricting process. By sheer force of numbers, urban voices will be heard, urban priorities heeded, urban needs met. It is vital that every effort is made to insure that rural voices are heard as well--particularly where there are priorities, perspectives and needs that are different and indeed inexplicable from outside a rural context. Please take the extra step to insure that rural communities are not "lumped in" with their urban neighbors. Please do not disadvantage more communities within Oregon in the name of political expediency.

As your constituent, I urge you to oppose any gerrymandering or undue partisan influence in the upcoming redistricting process. Oregonians across the state expect maps to be drawn fairly and in a compact manner, with communities of common interest like school districts and neighborhoods left intact. You must ensure that rural Oregonians are kept in districts with similar population density, and not drawn into districts with a higher population density and different needs. I ask that you ensure all Oregonians receive the representation they deserve. Oregonians are not served by gerrymandered maps that blatantly benefit one party, one constituency, one reality over another.

Sincerely,

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